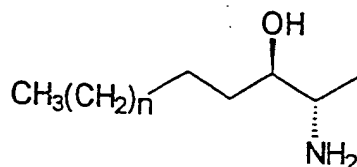
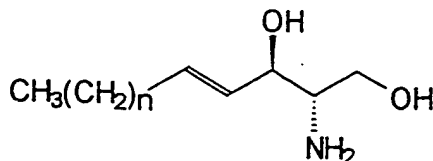


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

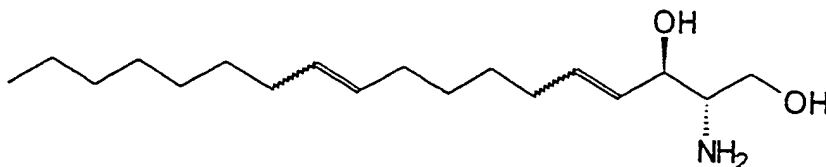
1. A pharmaceutical composition containing a long-chain, straight-chain alkane or alkene compound which has a 2-amino group and a 3-hydroxy group, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is a substituted 2-amino-3-hydroxyalkane or a 2-amino-1,3-dihydroxyalkene.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the compound is a substituted C_{16} - C_{24} alkane or alkene.
4. A composition according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the compound is a substituted C_{18} - C_{20} alkane
5. A composition according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the compound is a 2-amino-3-hydroxy C_{18} alkane.
6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:



spisulosine 285 (1), $n=12$; spisulosine 299 (2), $n=13$; spisulosine 313 (3), $n=14$;



sphingosine (4), $n=12$ and nonadeca-4-sphingenine (5), $n=13$; and



sphinga-4,10-diene (6).

7. A method of treating tumors in mammals comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, an effective antitumor amount of one or more of the compounds of Claims 1-6, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the tumor is selected from breast, head and neck, prostate, bladder, pancreas, lung, oesophagus, liver, colon, thyroid, melanoma, kidney, testicular, leukaemia, ovarian, gastro-intestinal cancer and lymphoma.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the mode of action of the active compound involves the vascular endothelium for control of tissue and tumour vascularisation.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is spisulosine 285 and the tumor is a solid tumour.
11. The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is spisulosine 285 and the tumor is a slowly proliferating tumour.
12. The method of claim 7, wherein mode of action of the active compound involves alteration of Rho protein activity.
13. The method of claim 7, wherein the active ingredient is in admixture with another drug for use in combination therapy.

14. A method of treating tumors in mammals comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, an effective antitumor amount of a long-chain, straight-chain alkane or alkene compound which has a 2-amino group and a 3-hydroxy group.
15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a long-chain, straight-chain alkane or alkene compound which has a 2-amino group and a 3-hydroxy group, for use in the treatment of cancer.
16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein the compound is spisulosine.
17. A method of treating a mammal affected by a malignant tumour, which comprises administering to the affected individual a therapeutically effective amount of an active compound which is a long-chain, straight-chain alkane or alkene compound which has a 2-amino group and a 3-hydroxy group.
18. A bioactive extract of the clam *Spisula polynyma*.